

Economic Immigration Overview

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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Context

- Canada's temporary worker programs help **respond to labour market needs** by bringing in global talent to fill skills gaps and help Canada remain competitive.
- Through permanent economic immigration programs, IRCC **selects newcomers for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy** (e.g., in-demand skills and human capital, business creation).
- While all newcomers stand to contribute to Canadian prosperity, the economic immigration category is the area where policy and program levers are designed to best support the Government's prosperity goals, and to maximize the economic benefits of immigration.
- Demographic factors and labour market projections point to future immigration, especially economic immigration, as an **increasingly important source of talent**.
- Economic immigration continues to support sectors with chronic staffing needs, including the transportation sector; however, immigration alone cannot fill all needs.

Economic Immigration Programs

Objective: Support the development of a strong and prosperous Canadian economy, in which the benefits of immigration are shared across all regions of Canada.

Canada has a growing suite of national and regional programs, allowing applicants at a range of skill levels the chance to immigrate here.

Temporary Residence

Permanent Residence

Temporary Workers	Federal Programs	Regional Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Respond to labour market needs by filling short-term labour and skills gaps, and create broader economic, social, and/or cultural benefits to Canada, or provides facilitation to foreign nationals where reciprocal benefits exist for Canadian citizens and permanent residents abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on selecting skilled workers and business people who can succeed in the Canadian economy and labour market over the long-term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complement federal programs by allowing PTs and communities to select immigrants who – in addition to meeting certain human capital criteria, also meet local labour market and economic needs.Nearly half of economic admissions.

In 2022, roughly 6,800 foreign nationals were admitted as permanent residents intending to work in transportation occupations (Annex A). In 2023 (up to Sept. 30), close to 6,300 permanent residents were welcomed.

Temporary Worker Programs

Temporary worker programs are employer-driven and responsive to demand; there are no set levels or limits on the number of temporary foreign workers admitted to Canada in a given year.

Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)

- Administered by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), who processes the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), with IRCC being responsible for work permit issuance.
- The program helps employers fill labour shortages where Canadian citizens or permanent residents are not available.
- Work permits issued under this program are employer-specific, meaning the foreign national can only work for the employer indicated on their work permit unless they apply to change employers.

International Mobility Program (IMP)

- Administered by IRCC, and facilitates the entry of workers without an LMIA to support Canada's broader economic, social, and cultural objectives, or where the work creates reciprocal opportunities for Canadians and permanent residents abroad.
- Work permits issued under this program can be employer-specific or open, the latter allowing holders to work almost anywhere and for any employer in Canada as long as the work permit is valid.

In 2022, over 9,700 foreign nationals held work permits in transportation occupations, in addition to those with open work permits who may also be working in the sector.

Federal Economic Programs

Objective: Support the development of a strong Canadian economy.

Federal Skilled Worker Program

Selects skilled workers with [skilled work experience in Canada or abroad and high human capital](#).

Federal Skilled Trades Program

Selects skilled workers who are qualified in a [skilled trade](#).

Canadian Experience Class

Selects skilled workers who have [Canadian work experience](#).

These three programs, along with a portion of the Provincial Nominee Program, are managed through the **Express Entry** application management system. Complete applications are processed within a 6 month service standard.

Eligibility requirements include skilled work experience (TEER 0,1,2 and 3), language ability, and in some cases education, and a job offer or certificate of qualification. If a person meets the requirements for one or more of these programs, they are placed into a pool of candidates within Express Entry who are eligible to be issued an invitation to apply.

Eligible candidates are ranked according to a [points grid](#), where points are awarded on factors such as age, official language proficiency, and education. The higher their score, the higher likelihood of receiving an invitation to apply.

In 2023, Express Entry introduced **a new method to select candidates based on whether they belong to a specific category (e.g. based on work experience in a specific occupation) identified to support an economic priority**.

Occupation-related categories for 2023 are:

- Healthcare
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Trades
- Transport (next slide for the 10 NOC codes included)
- Agriculture and agri-food



Category-based selection

Categories are recommended to the Minister based on identified economic goals, labour market projections, and informed by input from IRCC's partners (including provinces and territories, stakeholders across Canada).

Federal Economic Programs



Category-based selection in Express Entry – prioritizing Transport

On Sept. 20, 2023, 1,000 invitations to apply were sent to candidates in the Express Entry pool with experience in these **10 transport occupations (expected to be in shortage between 2022-2031)**.

NOC 2021, title	NOC, code	TEER	Invited Sept 20, 2023
Aircraft assemblers and aircraft assembly inspectors	93200	3	2
Transport truck drivers	73300	3	511
Railway traffic controllers and marine traffic regulators	72604	2	2
Engineer officers, water transport	72603	2	11
Deck officers, water transport	72602	2	20
Air traffic controllers and related occupations	72601	2	16
Air pilots, flight engineers and flying instructors	72600	2	50
Aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspectors	72404	2	37
Railway carmen/women	72403	2	15
Managers in transportation	70020	0	336

This category-based transport round **complements other Express Entry rounds**:

- Another 607 candidates with the above 10 NOC codes were invited via **other Express entry rounds in 2023** (to date).
- Candidates with other transport NOC codes listed as their primary occupation were invited via **other Express Entry rounds in 2023** (to date). For example:

- 15 Supervisors, mail and message distribution occupations (NOC 72025)
- 754 Supervisors, supply chain, tracking and scheduling coordination occupations (NOC 12013)
- 82 Automotive service technicians, truck and bus mechanics and mechanical repairers (NOC 72410)
- 47 Customs, ship and other brokers (NOC 13200)
- 1 Railway and yard locomotive engineers (NOC 73310)
- 7 Bus drivers, subway operators and other transit operators (NOC 73301)
- 4 Supervisors, railway transport operations (NOC 72023)

Data are preliminary and subject to change

Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot

- Launched in 2018, the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) is Canada's complementary pathway for refugee labour mobility.
- The pilot helps refugees and other displaced people immigrate to Canada as permanent residents through economic programs to support Canadian labour market needs.
- The EMPP allows Canada to welcome more refugees and displaced people, while giving Canadian employers access to an untapped talent pool from which they can attract and retain employees across all skill-levels and occupations, including in the transportation sector, to help grow our economy.

In June 2023, Canada launched an expansion of the EMPP introducing a new federal pathway which will give employers more opportunities to fill a wide range of in-demand jobs across Canada.

Regional Economic Programs

Objective: Sharing the benefits of immigration across all regions of Canada

Regional Economic Immigration Programs

Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

The PNP is a jointly administered immigration program that can be leveraged to meet labour market needs in the transportation sector. This program ensures that all areas of the country benefit from economic immigration by enabling provinces and territories (PTs) to design streams that attract skilled workers, international graduates and entrepreneurs to settle in their regions and fill local labour market needs. In fact, some jurisdictions have recently added innovative streams to target priority sectors. For instance, Saskatchewan has created an International Skilled Worker Hard-to-Fill Skills Pilot which includes candidates in occupations in the transportation sector.

Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP)

The AIP can be used to address labour market needs in this sector. This program aims to attract skilled immigrants to Atlantic Canada to address demographic and economic needs, as well as continue to increase retention in the region.

Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot

Launched in 2019, the RNIP aims to support smaller communities in rural and northern Canada to attract and retain newcomers in support of local economic development and labour needs. The pilot tests a community-driven model, combining meaningful employment with wrap-around community support to encourage newcomers to put down roots and stay in the communities in the long-term.

Immigration and the Transportation Sector

Other New Initiatives

Recent Changes to the RNIP

In September 2022, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration made changes to the RNIP.

These changes included expanding the geographic boundaries of several participating communities to enable more employers to access the pilot. The transportation sector is a top sector within the pilot across communities, including transport truck drivers and various transport labourers.

NOC 2021

The Department implemented the National Occupational Classification (NOC) changes (managed by ESDC and Statistics Canada) such that impacts to immigration programs align with labour market needs.

IRCC took an inclusive approach when adopting NOC 2021 in November 2022, expanding eligibility to the programs managed under Express Entry to sixteen additional occupations, some of which are facing shortage (such as transport truck drivers).

Labour Market Integration

The Settlement Program funds over 550 third-party organizations to provide **permanent residents* of all skill levels** with a wide range of settlement services.

- Settlement services help permanent residents integrate into the Canadian labour market and society, and build a successful life in Canada.
- The program funds a broad range of pre-arrival and in-Canada settlement services. This includes providing employment information and supports, such as counselling, soft-skills training, and job bridging programs.
- For newcomers that hope to work in regulated occupations, these services aim to inform newcomers of the processes they may need to undertake and refer them to resources and supports (offered by IRCC, ESDC, or by provinces and territories).

Services are provided outside of Quebec, which is covered by the *Canada-Québec Accord

Processing times

In 2022, IRCC processed approximately 560,000 applications and welcomed over 437,000 permanent residents into the country.

- In order to achieve another record year in permanent resident admissions, we have ramped up our processing capacity through hiring, streamlining processes, and leveraging technology.
- The Department continues to make progress returning to service standards for new applications in many categories, such as Family Class, Canadian Experience Class, Federal Skilled Workers and Quebec Skilled Workers.
- The ministerial task force created in June 2022, dedicated to addressing issues related to providing services to Canadians, continues its work and is taking action to improve client service and processing times. IRCC continues to put efforts towards reducing any inventory of applications above service standards.
- IRCC has continued hiring efforts in 2023 to facilitate the delivery of key commitments, including the increasing number of annual permanent resident admissions. The Department is focused on increasing processing efficiencies and developing IT innovations in the medium term, rather than relying on more staff.
- By implementing technology-based solutions and streamlining processes, improving policy, re-examining our risk tolerance and leveraging provincial/territorial and other partners, we will respond more quickly and effectively to client concerns.

Annex A: Transportation Occupations based on 2016 National Occupation Classification (NOC)*

0731 Managers in Transportation (70020)	7314 Railway carmen/women (72403)
1214 Supervisors, mail and message distribution occupations (72025)	7315 Aircraft mechanics and aircraft inspectors (72404)
1215 Supervisors, supply chain, tracking and scheduling co-ordination occupations (12013, 13201, 74202)	7321 Automotive service technicians, truck and bus mechanics and mechanical repairers (72410)
	7361 Railway and yard locomotive engineers (73310)
1315 Customs, ship and other brokers (13200)	7362 Railway conductors and brakemen/women (73311)
1511 Mail, postal and related workers (64401, 74100)	7451 Longshore workers (75100)
1513 Couriers, messengers and door-to-door distributors (74102, 75201)	7452 Material handlers (75101)
1525 Dispatchers (13201, 14404)	7511 Transport truck drivers (73300)
1526 Transportation route and crew schedulers (14405)	7512 Bus drivers, subway operators and other transit operators (73301)
2271 Air pilots, flight engineers and flying instructors (72600)	7513 Taxi and limousine drivers and chauffeurs (75200)
2272 Air traffic controllers and related occupations (72601)	7514 Delivery and courier service drivers (74102/75201)
2273 Deck officers, water transport (72602)	7531 Railway yard and track maintenance workers (74200)
2274 Engineer officers, water transport (72603)	7532 Water transport deck and engine room crew (74201)
2275 Railway traffic controllers and marine traffic regulators (72604)	7533 Boat and cable ferry operators and related occupations (75210)
6524 Ground and water transport ticket agents, cargo service representatives and related clerks (64313)	7534 Air transport ramp attendants (74202)
6621 Service station attendants (65101)	7622 Railway and motor transport labourers (75211)
7304 Supervisors, railway transport operations (72023)	9521 Aircraft assemblers and aircraft assembly inspectors (93200)

* IRCC Data is tracked by 2016 NOCs; however, eligibility criteria is based on 2021 NOC (in brackets) since November 2022.

Annex B: Overview of Work Permit Programs

Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)

Objective

- Fills temporary labour and skills shortages in Canada

Labour market test

- Yes – Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) conducted by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Requirements

- Employers must demonstrate that no Canadian labour is available

Type of work permit

- Employer-specific

Example occupations

- Caregivers, cooks, food processors, service supervisors, truck drivers, agricultural workers

International Mobility Program (IMP)

Objective

- Advances broader Canadian economic, social, and cultural interests, or where the work creates reciprocal opportunities for Canadians and permanent residents to work abroad.

Labour market test

- No – Eligible applicants under the IMP are LMIA-exempt.

Requirements

- Foreign nationals must demonstrate that their work will result in significant economic, social or cultural advantages or reciprocal benefits for Canadians

Type of work permit

- Employer-specific and open

Example occupations/cohorts

- Senior managers, engineers, information technology professionals, business consultants, athletes, professors, spouses of workers

Annex C: Number of Work Permits (including Extensions) Issued between January 01, 2022 and September 30, 2023

The number of work permits issued by program and selected NOCs	Work Permit	
	2022	2023 (Jan to Sept)
International Mobility Program (IMP)	1,430	1,625
0731.0-Managers In Transportation	85	10
1214 to 1215 – Administrative services supervisor	115	25
1315.0-Custom, Ship And Other Brokers	10	--
1511 to 1513 – Mail and message distribution occupations	--	N/A
1525 to 1526 – Supply chain logistics, tracking and scheduling co-ordination occupations	--	--
2271 to 2274 – Transportation officers and controllers	90	10
6521 and 6524 – Occupations in travel and accommodation	--	N/A
7304.0 – Supervisors, Railway Transport Operations	5	
7314 to 7315 – Machinery and transportation equipment mechanics (except vehicles)	195	40
7321.0 – Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Technicians	65	25
7361 to 7362 – Train crew operating occupations	10	N/A
7452.0 – Material Handlers	35	30
7511 to 7514 – Motor vehicle and transit drivers	725	95
7531 to 7534 – Other transport equipment operators and related maintenance workers	45	--
7622.0 – Railway and Motor Transport Labourers	N/A	N/A
9521.0 – Aircraft Assemblers And Aircraft Assembly Inspectors	10	N/A
Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)		
7451.0-Longshore Workers	N/A	--

- Some of the NOCs have been grouped together as some of the numbers were under 5. All values between 0 and 5 are shown as "--". This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when IRCC data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. For occupations that did not have work permits is shown as "N/A". Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.
- Transportation Occupations based on the 2016 National Occupation Classification (NOC)*